



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT

2015 APR 29 A 9:05
April 28, 2015

SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *for PCO*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: Kristin D. Roser *KDR*
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason to Believe Recommendation -
Failure to File 48-Hour Notices under the Administrative Fine Program

Attached is the name of a principal campaign committee that has failed to file 48-hour notices with the Commission for contributions of \$1,000.00 or more received from the close of books for the 2014 12 Day Pre-General Report up to 48 hours before the November 4, 2014 General Election in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and 11 CFR § 104.5(f). The committee, Wichern for Congress, represents a candidate who lost the General Election. The committee is being referred for failing to file 48-hour notices for loans from the candidate totaling \$30,000.00.

A 48-hour notice is required to report all contributions of a \$1,000.00 or more, to any authorized committee of a candidate, including contributions from the candidate, loans from the candidate and other non-bank sources and endorsements or guarantees of loans from banks, as per 11 CFR § 104.5(f).

We have attached an information sheet which includes the contributor name, date of receipt, and amount of the contributions for which a 48-hour notice was not filed.

In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties outlined within 11 CFR § 111.44, this committee should be assessed the civil money penalty so indicated.

UNCLASSIFIED

Recommendation

1. Find reason to believe that Wichern for Congress and Mark K. Wichern, Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$3,220 be assessed.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Attachment

11/05/2010 10:00:00 AM

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Received

AF 3002

Committee ID: C00558569

Committee Name: Wichern for Congress

Report Type: 30 Day Post-General Report (10/16/2014 – 11/24/2014)

48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/16/2014 – 11/1/2014

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE	AMOUNT
WICHERN, MARK K.	10/16/2014	\$10,000.00
WICHERN, MARK K.	10/21/2014	\$20,000.00
	TOTAL	\$30,000.00

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$3,220.00 ((2 Notices Not Filed at \$110 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Filed))

UNRECORDED

Federal Election Commission
Reason to Believe Circulation Report
48-Hour Notification Report

Committee ID C00558569	Committee Name WICHERN FOR CONGRESS	State FL	Election 2014	Candidate Name WICHERN, MARK	Treasurer WICHERN, MARK K. MR.	Prev Violations 0	Notices Not Filed 2	LOA \$30,000	Penalty \$3,220
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BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Reason To Believe Recommendation -) AF 3002
Failure to File 48-Hour Notices under the)
Administrative Fine Program: Wichern)
for Congress and Mark K. Wichern,)
Treasurer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Shawn Woodhead Werth, Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on April 30, 2015, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 3002:

1. Find reason to believe that Wichern for Congress and Mark K. Wichern, Treasurer, Treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that a civil money penalty of \$3,220 be assessed.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

April 30, 2015
Date

Shawn Woodhead Werth
Shawn Woodhead Werth
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 1, 2015

Mr. Mark K. Wichern, in official capacity as Treasurer
Wichern For Congress
2027 Pine Island Circle
Miramar Beach, FL 32550

C00558569
AF#: 3002

Dear Mr. Wichern:

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, 52 U.S.C. § 30101, *et seq.* ("the Act"), requires principal campaign committees of candidates for federal office to notify in writing either the Secretary of the Senate or the Federal Election Commission ("FEC"), and the Secretary of State, as appropriate, of any contribution of \$1,000 or more, received by any authorized committee of the candidate after the 20th day, but more than 48 hours before, any election. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(6)(A). The Act further requires notification to be made within 48 hours after the receipt of the contribution and to include the name of the candidate and office sought, the date of receipt, the amount of the contribution, and the identification of the contributor. *Id.* These notification requirements are in addition to all other reporting requirements. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Our records indicate that Wichern For Congress did not submit 48-Hour Notices for contributions of \$1,000 or more, received between October 16, 2014 and October 21, 2014, totaling \$30,000, as required by 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(6)(A). Attachment 1.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4). On April 30, 2015, the FEC found that there is Reason to Believe ("RTB") that Wichern For Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file the 48-Hour Notices. Based on the FEC's schedule of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.44, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$3,220. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 2. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. 11 CFR § 111.34. The amount of the civil money penalty is \$110 for each non-filed notice plus 10 percent of the dollar amount of the contributions not timely reported. The civil money penalty increases by 25 percent for each prior violation. Send your payment of \$3,220 within forty (40) days of the finding, or by June 9, 2015.

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must submit a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review, 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20463. Your response must include the AF# (found at the top of page 1 under your committee's identification number) and be received within forty (40) days of the Commission's RTB finding, or June 9, 2015. 11 CFR § 111.35(a). Your written response must include the reason(s) why you are challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, and must include the factual basis supporting the reason(s) and supporting documentation. The FEC strongly encourages that documents be submitted in the form of affidavits or declarations. 11 CFR § 111.36(c).

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three grounds: (1) a factual error in the RTB finding; (2) miscalculation of the calculated civil money penalty by the FEC; or (3) your demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond your control. 11 CFR § 111.35(b). In order for a challenge to be considered on the basis of best efforts, you must have filed the required report no later than 24 hours after the end of these reasonably unforeseen circumstances. *Id.* Examples of circumstances that will be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) a failure of Commission computers or Commission-provided software despite your seeking technical assistance from Commission personnel and resources; (2) a widespread disruption of information transmissions over the Internet that is not caused by a failure of the Commission's or your computer systems or Internet service provider; and (3) severe weather or other disaster-related incident. 11 CFR § 111.35(c). Examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) negligence; (2) delays caused by vendors or contractors; (3) treasurer and staff illness, inexperience or unavailability; (4) committee computer, software, or Internet service provider failures; (5) failure to know filing dates; and (6) failure to use filing software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

The "failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver" of your right to present such argument in a petition to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

If you intend to be represented by counsel, please advise the Office of Administrative Review. You should provide, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of your counsel and authorize counsel to receive notifications and communications relating to this challenge and imposition of the calculated civil money penalty.

2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Submit a Challenge

If you do not pay the calculated civil money penalty and do not submit a written response, the FEC will assume that the preceding factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Wichern For Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty.

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 *et seq.* The FEC may take any and all appropriate

action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, send the enclosed remittance form, along with your payment, to the FEC at the address on page 4. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

4. Partial Payments

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact David Garr in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

On behalf of the Commission,



Ann M. Ravel
Chair

CONFIDENTIAL

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE REMITTANCE & PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.44, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$3,220 for the 2014 General Election 48-Hour Notification Report.

Please mail this remittance with a check or money order made payable to the Federal Election Commission to the following address:

Federal Election Commission
P.O. Box 979058
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If you choose to send your remittance and payment by courier or overnight delivery, please use this address:

U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox
FEC #979058
1005 Convention Plaza
Attn: Government Lockbox, SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

The remittance and your payment are due by June 9, 2015. Upon receipt of your remittance and payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK

Personal checks will be converted into electronic funds transfers (EFTS). Your account will be electronically debited for the amount on your check, usually within 24 hours, and the debit will appear on your regular statement. We will destroy your original check and keep a copy of it. In case the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in lieu of the original check. Should the EFT not be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer twice.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT

FOR: Wichern For Congress

FEC ID#: C00558569

AF#: 3002

PAYMENT DUE DATE: June 9, 2015

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$3,220

Contributions for Which a 48-Hour Notice Was Not Received

AF 3002

Committee ID: C00558569

Committee Name: Wichern for Congress

Report Type: 30 Day Post-General Report (10/16/2014 – 11/24/2014)

48-Hour Reporting Period: 10/16/2014 –11/1/2014

CONTRIBUTOR	DATE	AMOUNT
WICHERN, MARK K.	10/16/2014	\$10,000.00
WICHERN, MARK K.	10/21/2014	\$20,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$30,000.00

Proposed Civil Money Penalty: \$3,220.00 ((2 Notices Not Filed at \$110 each) + (10% of the Overall Contributions Not Filed))

11-01-2014 10:00:00 AM



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

2015 JUN 17 PM 3: 23

SENSITIVE

June 16, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: Kristin D. Roser *KDR*
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the Failure to File 48-Hour Notices

Attached is a list identifying a political committee and its treasurer against which the Commission has found reason to believe (RTB) and assessed a proposed civil money penalty calculated at RTB for failure to file or failure to timely file the appropriate 48 Hour Notices for the 2014 General Election. The committee has paid the civil money penalty requested at RTB.

In accordance with 11 CFR § 111.34, the Commission shall send a final determination notice to the respondent that has paid the civil money penalty.

RAD Recommendation

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer listed on the attached report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated.
- (2) Send the appropriate letter.

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	State	Election	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Prev Violations	Notices Not Filed	LOA	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	FD Penalty	Date Paid	Amount Paid
3002	C00558509	WICHERN FOR CONGRESS	FL	2014	WICHINN, MARK	WICHERN, MARK K. MR.	0	2	\$30,000	04/30/2015	\$3,220	\$3,220	06/02/2015	\$3,220

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Administrative Fine Program - Final) AF 3002
Determination Recommendation for the)
Failure to File 48-Hour Notices: Wichern)
for Congress and Mr. Mark K. Wichern,)
as treasurer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Shawn Woodhead Werth, Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on June 18, 2015, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 3002:

- 1: Make a final determination that Wichern for Congress and Mr. Mark K. Wichern, as treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty in the amount of \$3,220.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

June 19, 2015
Date

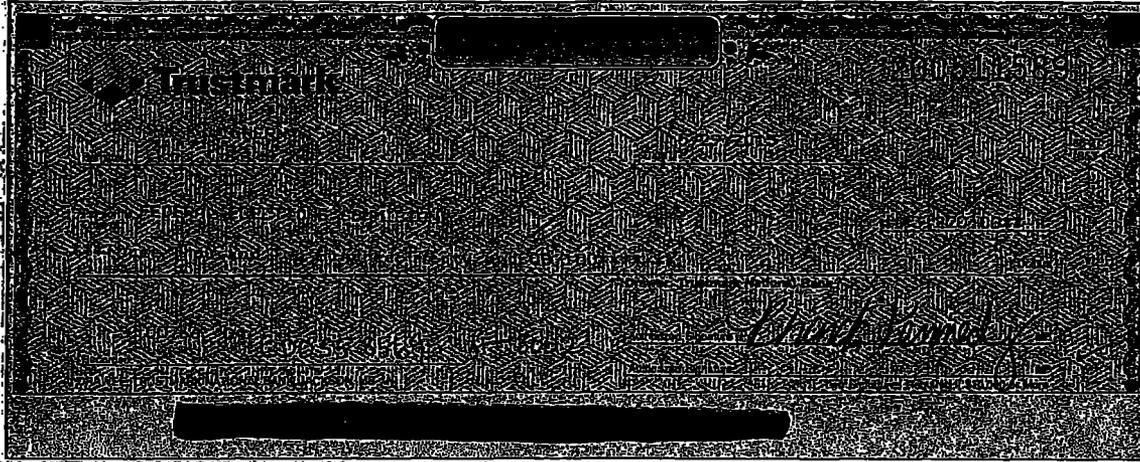
Shawn Woodhead Werth
Shawn Woodhead Werth
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Lockbox: GLX-979058 Ledger Date 06/02/2015

usbank

St. Louis CA Lockbox
(314) 425-1818



Batch	Item	TID	Batch Total	Amount
1	1	Y-3123485	\$4,310.00	\$3,220.00



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington DC 20463

THIS IS THE END OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3002

DATE SCANNED 7/13/15

SCANNER NO. 2

SCAN OPERATOR JK

11-10-2015 10:00:00 AM